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Message Text

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22
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 VO-03 /085 W
---------- 111950
R 250255Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6912
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2040

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CVIS, LA, US
SUBJECT: FORMER LAO AMBASSADOR TO U.S. PHENG NORINDR TO
VISIT FRANCE, U.S.

REF A VIENTIANE 1893 (NOTAL), B VIENTIANE 2034

1. FORMER LAO AMBASSADOR TO U.S. PHENG NORINDR HAS APPLIED FOR VISA TO VISIT U.S. WHICH WE ISSUED AUGUST 25. PHENG IS CURRENTLY ADVISOR TO SOUVANNA PHOUMA, FORMER LAO PRIMIN, WHO IS NOW ADVISOR TO PRIMIN. PHENG HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY LPDR TO GO TO FRANCE FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT AND ALSO TO GO FROM THERE TO U.S., WHERE HE PLANS VISIT SON WORKING FOR UN AND ALSO LOOK AT HOUSE HE OWNS IN WASHINGTON. LPDR WILL PAY FOR ROUND TRIP TRAVEL TO FRANCE BUT NOT FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES OR TRIP TO U.S.

2. PHENG SAID HE HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED THREE MONTHS ABSENCE AND WOULD SPEND ABOUT TWO IN FRANCE BEFORE GOING TO U.S. FOR AT LEAST ONE WEEK. HE PLANS LEAVE LAOS AUGUST 27, APPARENTLY
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FOR BANGKOK. HE ASKED IF MARK PRATT WAS STILL IN EMBASSY IN

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PARIS AND SAID HE WOULD CALL HIM.

3. PHENG SAID SOUVANNA WOULD BE LEAVING LAOS END OF SEPTEMBER FOR A MONTH AND A HALF IN FRANCE, AND HE EXPECTED TWO OF THEM WOULD RETURN TO LAOS TOGETHER. PHENG HIMSELF SAYS HE IS PLANNING TO RETURN BOTH FOR THE SAKE OF HIS OWN "HONOR" AND ALSO BECAUSE IF HE DID NOT RETURN IT WOULD BESMIRCH SOUVANNA, WHO HAD PERSUADED LPDR LEADERS TO LET PHENG LEAVE COUNTRY FOR HEALTH REASONS.

4. PHENG SAID THAT TOP LEVEL OF PRIME MINISTER, ALL FOUR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTERS, AND MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE PRIMIN OFFICE SALY VONGKHAMSAO HAD HAD TO APPROVE HIS REQUEST TO LEAVE COUNTRY. FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUNE, WHO IS ONE OF THE DEPUTY PRIMINS, AND RANKING SECSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS KHAMPHAY HAD BOTH THEN BEEN SYMPATHETIC TO HIS REQUEST FOR PASSPORT, BUT OTHER SECSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOUPHAN SITHPASAY HAD RAISED OBSTACLES UNTIL HE WAS OVERRIDDEN. PHENG HAS BOTH SERVICE AND REGULAR LAO PASSPORTS.

5. PHENG REPEATED GIST OF BRITISH COMMENTS REPORTED REF B THAT LAO LEADERS WERE DIVIDED ON TREATMENT OF RANKING CIVIL SERVANTS WHO HAD WORKED FOR PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS. HE SAID PRIMIN KAYSONE, DEPUTY PRIMIN GENERAL KHAMTAY, PHOUNE, AND INFORMATION MINISTER SISANA SISANE WERE THE LEADING HARD-LINERS WITH PHOUNE PARTICULARLY TOUGH. PRAGMATISTS INCLUDED DEPUTY PRIMINS NOUHAK AND PHOUMI, WITH FORMER ONLY A RECENT CONVERT FROM RANKS OF HARD-LINERS.
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TAGS: PINS, CVIS, LA, US, (PHENG NORINDR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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